

REMARKS

Claims 10 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating the subject matter of the base claim and all intervening claims, and to correct informalities. Claims 1-9, 12-16, 19 and 20 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 10, 11, 17, 18, 21 and 22 will be pending.

Response to Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 17 are objected to because of informalities.

Claims 10, 11, 17, 18, 21 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 10 and 17 have been amended to correct the informalities. Further, Claims 10 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating the subject matter of the base claim and all intervening claims, and to correct informalities. Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 10, 11, 17, 18, 21 and 22 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections Under § 112

Claims 7, 8, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.

As noted, Claims 7, 8, 14 and 15 have been canceled. Thus, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections Under § 102

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,520,753 to Grosjean et al.

Claims 9, 12, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Grosjean in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,042,345 to Bishop et al.

Claims 13 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Grosjean in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,611,214 to Wegeng et al.

Claims 1-9, 12-16, 19 and 20 have been canceled. Thus, the rejections have been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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